

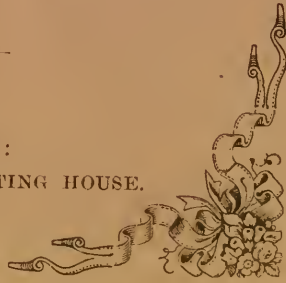
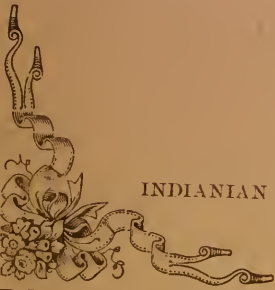
DREAMS FULFILLED;

OR, THE STORY OF

JOSEPH AND HIS BRETHREN.

DRAMATIZED BY A SNIDER,  
PIERCETON, IND.

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1875.



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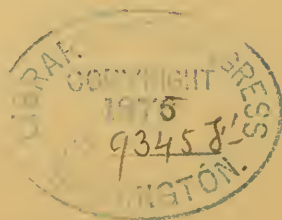
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*Present, all the family of JACOB, a smoking altar before them ;  
the curtain lifts while they are singing a Psalm ; JACOB  
addresses a word of exhortation.*

*Jacob*.—My sons, remember the God of your fathers, and worship Him who called Abraham from the land between the rivers, and brought him into this land, to whom he gave it in promise for an inheritance forever ; who shall give to you fields, and vineyards, and cities, in this land where we now dwell, if ye serve and obey Him.

*Ben*.—Father, have we always lived in this place ?

*Jacob*.—No, my son, I have not lived many years in Hebron.

*Ben*.—Tell us, then, where you have lived.

*Jacob*.—Many years ago your grandfather Isaac dwelt at Beersheba, whence I fled from the face of Esau, my brother, who was angry with me, to my mother's kindred, who dwelt in Haren. There I found the charm of my life, the light of my eyes, even thy mother, and the mother of my dearest son Joseph.

*Sim—to brothers*.—Hark ye ! dearest son. We be lightly esteemed beside this fellow.

*Jud*.—Neither strength, courage, industry, or skill, is accounted aught in us ; the old man's heart is filled with him. Away to the sheepfolds ; let them alone to enjoy each other ; we shall see by and by.

*JACOB and JOSEPH left alone.*

*Jo*.—Father, thy sons have gone up to the plains of Shechem to tend the flocks, and the little boy Benjamin is with the servants in the field ; tell to me again the story

of thy visions at Bethel, when on thy journey to Laban's house, for in dreams and visions there is some charm. I cherish each vision of my sleep as if angels talked with me. Are dreams all true? or visions all divine?

*Jacob.*—Nay, nay, my son; thy brothers will tarry still in the vale of Hebron, until after the Holy Sabbath; then on the first day they will remove to Shechem. They will return with the flocks and fold them at home this night again, and I have preparations to make for their departure, and have, therefore, no time to hold converse with thee of dreams and visions of the night. When they have departed, we will talk of these things.

*The young men return.*

*Reu.*—to *Joseph.*—Hither, idler, and help thy brothers fold the sheep, and go thence and fodder the asses.

*Jacob.*—to *Reu.*—My son, be gentle with the lad; older and stronger hands can perform these tasks.

*Reu.*—Yes, and let the worthless vagabond do naught but eat and sleep.

*All sitting at the tent door in the morning.*

*Jo.*—I had a dream last night that fills me with strange thoughts. Wouldst hear?

*Levi.*—Idle minds do dream for want of better employment. Hadst thou been occupied in the field by day, thy sleep would not have been disturbed by dreams and idle fancies.

*Issa.*—Go to, let's hear the babbler's dream he longs so much to tell.

*Dan.*—I can as well guess it now as when 'tis told; 'twas of his spotted coat.

*Nap.*—Shrewd guess, my brother.

*Ash.*—Nay, 'twere not; I tell you, the lad is seventeen, and petted by his father, thinks himself a man, and visions of fair maidens haunt his brain at night.

*Zeb.*—Nay, nay; thou dreamest of naught else thyself, therefore all others dream as thou.

*Sim.*—Be patient, my brothers, and hear the judgment of my superior wisdom: the crowing of the cock and cackling of the hens half waked him when he should have been astir, and he dreamed of hunting eggs.

*General uproar and laughter.*

*Several*.—But come, pet, do tell; we die to hear, and with patience will listen to thy tale.

*Jo*.—I did dream, and for my dreams may not be held to account. If they be true, it is not of me; if not, then none are harmed thereby. But in the harvest field we wrought, all: when each had bound a sheaf, lo! my sheaf rose up, rose of its own accord, and stood erect; when, one after another, each man's sheaf rose up and stood around and bowed obeisance to my sheaf, which stood erect within the circle of the nodding sheaves.

*Reu*.—To *you*, then, the eleventh son, I, the first born, and all these older than thou, shall come to bow? Surely no law or custom of our fathers will support such vain pretensions.

*Jud*.—A spoiled and flattered son.

*Lev*.—A beardless youth, vain with conceit and foul ambition.

*Gad*.—Say no more of thy dreams, or with my shepherd's staff I will teach thee a lesson that will humble thy proud heart.

*Sim*.—Go to, go to, the sun is already hot, and the sheep pant within the folds. Go stay with thy father, little one, till thy sheaf shall rise and stand alone.

*Jacob*.—My sons, the morrow is the holy Sabbath; return this night also; then on the first day ye shall go down to Shechem to pasture the flocks. Be present at the morning sacrifice to-morrow.

*Present at worship all but JOSEPH.* [*Watt's paraphrase of the 23d Psalm.*]

*Jacob*.—The devotions of the morning ended, we are prepared for the morning meal. But where is Joseph? Was he not present at our morning psalm? I perceive the failing of my sight.

*JOSEPH enters.*

*Jacob*.—Joseph, my son, what hast thou done, to neglect the hour of holy worship?

*Reu*.—Doubtless, my father, the lad has been wandering far from home, from flocks, and from worship too, for all of that, chasing some wild fancy in his dreams. So well he loves to dream, he little loves to walk.

*Jo*.—In dreams and visions our fathers Abraham and

Isaac, and our revered sire here, have been taught of God and led in the ways of wisdom.

*Gad.*—Most true, my brother; and thou art ambitious to become the prophet of thy father's family?

*Jo.*—As heaven will it.

*Son.*—Hast had some fresh dream of harvest field and nodding sheaves?

*Jo.*—Not fields, nor sheaves, but stranger still; the sun and moon and stars eleven, all came bending from their courses, and bowing at my feet did me obeisance.

*Jacob.*—Hist! hist thee my son! Shall thy father and thy mother, and all thy brothers bow to thee, young man? Be wary of thy dreams, lest they lead thee into presumption.

[*But musing aside, walking slowly up and down.*]

*Jacob.*—Abraham and my father Isaac, and I also, have had dreams that could not be gainsaid. For the fulfillment of those of my son Joseph I will look to see what will come of them. It may be the Lord will raise up to me a prophet, that will be more to me than sun, or moon, or stars.

*In the plains of Dathan—present the ten elder sons.*

*Jud.*—Come, lads, the sun is hot above us, and the plain glows and shimmers in the parching heat; the sheep are well shaded by the rocks and trees on the south side of the plain. We shall rest awhile under the shadow of this great olive tree beside the fountain—so sweet to rest.

*Ren.*—Shade and rest are pleasant, but nothing is sweet to me while I remember that I, the eldest of my father's sons, son of his first wife, and by custom of our fathers head of the tribes of our Father Israel, shall be made to bow to the son of Rachel.

*Ash.*—What? Neither he nor thou shall ever reign over my tribe.

*Zeb.*—And while I live I will submit to none as head over me.

*Lev.*—Cease your strife—I saw some one pass that clump of bushes by the wayside yonder. A traveler draweth nigh.

*Gad.*—A thief perchance would steal a kid or lamb out of the flock. Go see.

*Sim.*—Nay, stay, I see him now; it is the *dreamer*—by his coat I know him.

*Nep.*—But in this wild wilderness would be a fitting place to bury out of sight the dreamer and end forever his presumption.

*Isa.*—I hate the whining wretch; his father thinks of none but he, and we and our sons will be sent out empty, while all the estate will fall into his hand, and his dreams shall be fulfilled when we have to come bowing to him for a mouthful of bread.

*Dan.*—'Tis truth, and I shall only feel content when his blood shall have washed out the foul insult.

*Jud.*—Hush! perchance some serious business at home compelled his coming. Think you the old man would have sent him else?

*Jo.*—Hail! brothers all! Whew! but 'tis warm. I thought to find you at Schechem, but a stranger told me ye had come to Dathan, and these thirteen miles have I walked since the sun marked high noon.

*Gad.*—Thou art better far at walking than aught else; a walk to Egypt would be but pleasant exercise for one so agile.

*Jo.*—Our father sent me forth to see if all be well and prosperous, and to bring him word again.

*Reu.*—Thy journey hath been long and the heat is great; go to my tent and refresh thyself with bread and flesh and milk of goats.

*JOSEPH goes into the tent.*

*Dan.*—Shall we be insulted in this manner? To send to us this whining whelp to see after us.

*Ash.*—To insult at home and watch us abroad.

*Nep.*—I'll break his head if he comes around me.

*Lev.*—To put him out of the way, is the only way we shall ever have peace at home or ever attain our rights.

*Zeb.*—I say, kill him now; the old man will think a wild beast hath devoured him, and we shall have quiet.

*Jud.*—I like not that he should die by our hands—would that some beast of the forest had devoured him before this evil day. But he deserves to die.

*Reu.*—Nay, brothers, slay him not, but cast him into yonder pit, and let him dream there alone, till some

hungry beast devour him, so blood shall not be found on your hands.

*Several.*—Well spoken. Here he comes.

*Zeb.*—Come, lad, we have found a cave thine eyes should see.

*Isa.*—A place well fitted for the fancies of a dreamer.

*Dan.*—Where all the stars will dance around thee.

*God.*—But no sheaves of wheat to do thee reverence.

*Jo.*—Your words are bitter; I will not go see your cave.

*Levi.*—Thou wilt; come on; take him.

*Jo.*—What mean ye?

*Ash.*—To strip thee of thy pride and end thy visions.

*Jo.*—Let me go.

*Dan.*—Into this pit thou shalt go.

*Jo.*—I appeal to my father and my father's God.

*Jud.*—Thy father is not nigh thee, as as for his God, He regardeth thee not.

*All*—*clamoring with confusion*—Strip him! Kill him! Stone him! Cast him into the pit!

*Reu.*—*walking away*— I will come at night and let him go.

*They strip him of his coat and cast him into the pit.*

*REU.* *goes to the flock, the others to the tent. A company of Ishmaelite traders come nigh, offering their wares.*

*Jud.*—We be shepherds feeding our flocks in this plain, and have brought no money with us. Will ye buy of our lambs or kids?

*Trader.*—We go to Egypt, and there could find none to buy sheep or goats.

*Zeb.*—In Egypt slaves are ready sale—wilt buy a criminal and take him hence.

*Trad.*—If the gods will. Whate'er will bring silver or gold is lawful in our sight.

*Arp.*—Hither, lads, let us bring him; he shall dream of wheat in Egypt.

*Trad.*—What price will ye take?

*Dan.*—He is fat and well formed; he should bring a talent of silver.

*Trad.*—A hundred pence rather. But I will give you twenty pieces of silver.

*Jud.*—He is worth much more, but we sell him not for money, but for his crimes; take him at your price.

*Trad.*—It is well. Adieu.

*Reu.—returning to the pit, finds him gone; comes to the company weeping.—*The child! the child is not, and I, ah! whither shall I go?

*Jud.—*Go to thy tent and rest thee, as we shall this night with great contentment

*Reu.—*If ye can rest, so do; mine eyes shall know no sleep this night.

*They take JOSEPH'S coat and dip it in blood, and send it up to JACOB.*

*Dan.—*This have we found, our father; know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.

*Zeb.—*By the rock on the side of the wilderness we found it.

*JACOB reads his clothes and puts on sackcloth and mourns; they all assan to comfort him; spontaneous expressions.*

*Jacob.—*Why will ye strive to comfort me? for I will go down to the grave unto my son mourning.

## IN EGYPT.

*Near the house of POTIPHAR—Present Ishmaelite traders and others.*

*Trader.—*The young man, good sirs, is healthy, without blemish, and of goodly favour, active and strong. More still, he is learned in the arts of his country, on the border of the great sea. A servant for shop, or field, or house. What will ye give?

*A crowd and confusion; a man in military dress commands the crowd to stand back.*

*Potiphar.—*From whence bought ye this boy.

*Trad.—*From the Hebrews we bought him, who sold him for crime.

*Potiphar.—*For crime, said ye? What crime? That face shows no trace of crime; truth and virtue do not show themselves in the face of man if that lad is not innocent. Ye have stolen him! Ye have stolen him, and are yourselves the criminals.

*Trad.—*We tell the truth. We know not of his crimes; after them we asked not; we bought him of his own tribe.

*Pot.—*Well, well, we are not particular about such matters here in Egypt. What is your price?

*Trad.*—Of current coin of Egypt, three hundred Kasi-tahs.

*Pot., to steward.*—Take this man to thy table and weigh to him the price.

*Trad., to Pot.*—Take hence thy purchase.

*Pot., to Jo.*—Young man, the service for which I bought thee is not hard, but will require diligence and punctuality; if thy conduct shall be good, it will be well with thee; if not and thou prove false, there is no chance to escape my hand, as I command all the armies of Egypt.

*Jo.*—May I deserve thy favor.

*Pot., to wife.*—I have this day bought of some Midianites this boy—a house servant; command him, and see that he doth faithfully perform his task: The time of my stay is short; a few matters demand attention at home, and the king's command is to Ethiopia, to humble the pride of Sheba.

*Wife*—Would I could go too? What wretched lives we live pent up at home, while our lords roam abroad at will. Why cannot we bear arms and win glories as well as they?

*Pot.*—Far rather would I sit at home in the shade than to scorch under the burning sun of Ethiop.

*Wife.*—Yes, you would be idle because duty calls you abroad; and to be idle is a weariness to me, bound down by custom and compelled to stay within.

*Pot.*—So with all mankind—what they do they would not; what they cannot, they fain would do. But I must away with my command.

*Wife.*—Thy absence shall it be for long?

*Pot.*—A year or more it may be, as the gods may favor our army.

*Salutes his wife and bids her adieu—she weeping follows him to the door—exit POTIPHAR.*

POTIPHAR returns—great joy at his return.

*Pot.*—Our arms victorious, our enemies subdued; with rich spoils we have returned, with hopes of peace; but no longer than one day is granted us, and we are commanded to Assyria.

*Wife*—Ah, my lord, will war and fightings never cease? I had as well have no husband.

*Pot.*—Thou sharest the honors of thy husband, and at home the spoils; while servants wait thy bidding. But what of the boy I gave thee one and twenty moons ago?

*Wife*—Look around thee and see; all is done, and well done—faithful in all things—no servant in all Egypt so faithful to his trust, so diligent; everything prospers in his hands.

*Pot. calls Joseph.*—Here, lad, thy good conduct in the past gives cause of hope for the future—take these keys and all is in thy care and under thy control, save my wife alone. I am commanded to the wars again. All my servants will obey thy word. Fare thee well.

*Jos., to servants.*—You see the time of harvest drawing nigh, and preparations must be made therefor. You to the fields, to see that no harm befall the standing grain. You to the smithshop, to see that tools are prepared against the day appointed. You to the market, to buy store of meat, fruits and wine for the harvest.

*Servants.*—Thy orders shall be well performed in every part.

JOSEPH, *passing up and down, passes* POTIPHAR'S WIFE *reclining on a couch.*

*Wife*—Joseph, thy master hath done me a great pleasure in placing thee in my house; thy countenance fills my soul with delight, thy conversation is music to my ears; come tarry with me and rest from toil and care.

*Jo.*—I must not neglect the charge the master gave me, and the time is precious.

*Wife.*—A little hour will not affect the affairs of the household to harm aught.

*Jo.*—How could I account to my master if I neglect one duty?

*Wife.*—Thy master by this is far on his journey, and will never know of our affairs; come rest thee in my chamber for a little while.

*Jo.*—Nay, but I cannot, I dare not.

*Wife.*—Thou canst; thou must; wilt thou disregard the wishes of thy mistress?

*Jo.*—Indeed, I cannot.

*Wife.*—Thou shalt; as thy mistress I command thee.

*Jo.*—Thy husband, my master, put all there is in this house into my hands, and there is none greater in this

house than I, and he hath reserved nothing to himself but thee. How, then, could I do this great wickedness and sin against God?

*Wife.*—Come! Come! [*Rising hastily from the couch, she approaches him; he draws back; she cries: Come, oh! Come! She rushes toward him; he turns and flies; she takes hold of his coat: it is left in her hand. She calls: Help! Murder! Help!*]

*Servants enter.*—What aileth thee, our mistress?

*Wife.*—Oh! If thy master were here he should slay that evil wretch, the Hebrew.

*1st Serv.*—The flag of our master's staff was still at the camp to-day as I returned from the smith shop. Shall we send?

*Wife.*—Run with all haste and see, and bring him home with speed.

*POTIPHAR enters in great haste.*

*Pot.*—What! What is the matter here that I have been sent for in such haste, and so disturb my plans? This very hour I was to move my troops.

*Wife.*—See, my lord, what thou hast done, in bringing that Hebrew servant into the house, to mock and seduce thy loyal and loving wife.

*Pot., in great passion.*—The gods do so to me, and more also, if he shall see the light of day until I return from Assyria with the trophies of victory. Commit him to the king's prison under warrant sealed with the great seal of my office. Till I return, give him prison fare. Adieu.

*They enter JOSEPH'S chamber and drag him away to prison.*

PRISON; *present*, BAKER, BUTLER, JOSEPH; JAILOR *enters*, JOSEPH *rises*.

*Jailor, to Jo.*—Say, lad, for what cause hast thou been cast into this prison? What crime hast thou done?

*Jo.*—My crime is not the cause of this misfortune. I suffer wrongfully.

*Jail.*—All persons say the same. But I always heard a good report of thee from the house of Potiphar. What cause hath brought thee into this disgrace?

*Jo.*—The passions of a wicked woman, whose follies led to hate, and hate to slander and false accusation;

then impetuous malice drove me here, without a hearing or a chance to answer.

*Jail.*—Since in my charge thou hast well behaved; thy helpfulness shall be rewarded by enlargement.

*Jo.*—The God of my fathers reward thy kindness.

*Jail.*—To thee I commit all these keys of chamber, ward or cell, reserving only the key of the great iron gate of the prison court. Thy duties shall be to feed and watch the prisoners, and see that all is quiet, orderly, well kept and cleanly.

*Jo.*—As you command.

*He takes the charge, and in his rounds comes to the BAKER and BUTLER, talking.*

*Baker, to Butler.*—Dost thou believe in dreams? Some always make account of them, but I never regarded them; yet last night my dream seemed more a vision than a dream. I cannot rid my mind of what I saw.

*Butler.*—Strange that thou should speak my thoughts. I too dreamed. But here comes the Hebrew prisoner. I have heard of his people that they are wise in interpreting dreams and visions.

*Jo.*—Goodmorrow, fellow prisoners. Wherefore look ye so sad? Art well?

*Baker.*—Never better, save that our rest hath caused us unrest. We each have dreamed, on the last night, dreams that were more visions than dreams.

*But.*—Is it possible that some presence may be given to the soul while all the powers of the body are locked in sleep?

*Jo.*—Such may be the will of God.

*Ba.*—What God, Apis or Ashteroth? What oricle shall tell us of the shall be?

*Jo.*—No God but one, the living God, whom my fathers worshipped. He who causes all things can tell what shall be.

*Ba.*—If thy God is the true God, tell us our dreams, and we will believe thee.

*Jo.*—Relate to me your dreams, and I will give to you the interpretation.

*Bu.*—In my dream, behold a vine, and in the vine three branches that bended and brought forth fruit. The cup

of Pharaoh was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them in my hand, and gave the king.

*Jo.*—The branches *three*: ere three days, within three days, the king shall restore thee to thy former place as butler. But think of me when thou comest to thy place; remember me to the king, for indeed I was stolen from my native land, and am imprisoned here without offence or crime against any.

*Ba.*—Thy interpretation shows signs of expertness, and give some cause of hope. My dream, like his, was of my occupation. Three baskets were on my head, the topmost filled with all sorts of baked meats for the king's table; but the birds of the air did eat them out of the basket on my head.

*Jo.*—Yet three days, and Pharaoh shall lift thy head from off thy shoulders.

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*In PHARAOH'S palace; the King in chair of state; guards, attendants.*

*Ph.*—Bring to me wise men of my kingdom, astrologers and magicians, for the dreams of the night trouble me.  
*Enter savans.*

For you reputed wise men of my dominions I have called, that you may give to me an interpretation of my dreams.

*Ma.*—We wait the pleasure of the most august sovereign, and to the utmost of our ability will do thy bidding. Relate to us thy dream.

*King.*—In my dream, behold I stood by the river, and there came up seven kine, fat and well favored; and seven other kine followed them, poor and ill favored; and the lean kine did eat up and devour the fat kine.

*Ma.*—Long live the king! Thy servants are not able to reveal the mystery the gods have hidden from our eyes.

*The King, in great anger.*—Get hence, ye vain deceivers! I have fed and clothed you at the public cost, that we might profit by your wisdom. Go forth! earn your own bread; enter my palace courts no more.

*Exit magicians.*

*Butler.*—Most royal master, this day I am reminded of my fault; two years ago the King was wroth with thy servant, and cast him into prison with the chief baker;

while there we dreamed, each on the same night, dreams that troubled us. A Hebrew prisoner that was there gave us the interpretation thereof, which was fulfilled within three days. Me he restored to mine office, and him he hanged.

*King.*—If there is to be found in my dominions such a man, bring him to me in haste.

*Exit BUTLER and GUARD—Enter BUTLER, GUARD and JOSEPH.*

*King.*—I have dreamed, and told the dream to my wise men, and there was none that could interpret; I have heard of thee, that thou canst interpret dreams.

*Jo.*—It is not in me; nevertheless God shall give answers of peace.

*King.*—In my dream, behold I stood by the bank of the river, and there came up seven kine, fat and well favored; and seven other kine followed them, poor and ill favored; and the lean kine did eat up and devour the seven fat kine, and were none the better thereby. I saw also seven ears of corn, full and plump, followed by seven more, blasted and empty; and the last did eat up and devour the first. This I told to the magicians, and there was none to answer me.

*Jo.*—The dream is one; God hath showed unto Pharaoh what he is about to do. Seven kine are seven years; seven ears are seven years, also. Seven fat kine, seven years of plenty; seven lean kine, seven years of famine. There shall be seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, followed by seven years of famine, until the seven years of plenty shall be forgotten. Let Pharaoh do this: appoint officers to go through all the land of Egypt, and gather all the food of these good years the fifth part, and let them keep food in the cities, and that food shall be for store to the land for the years of famine, to preserve the life of man and beast.

*King, to servants.*—Can we find in all our kingdom a man like this, in whom is the spirit of the living God? [To Joseph.] I have none so discreet and wise as thou; see, I make thee ruler over all the land of Egypt! Only in the throne shall I be greater than thou. [To attendants.] Bring hither robes of state and a gold chain and put them

on him. Put upon his finger this ring and seal of authority, and proclaim before him—bow the knee.

*Exit—attendants bow as he passes.*

HEBRON—JACOB *and sons sitting at the door of their tent, looking disconsolate.*

*Ben.*—My father, I am hungry, but I cannot eat these roots and bitter nuts. Why don't we have bread any more?

*Jacob.*—My son, the Lord has withheld the rain, and the earth is parched as an oven; the grain cannot grow.

*Ben.*—Well, father, can't we go down where you used to live—don't they have bread there?

*Reu.*—No: there is no bread there now.

*Ben.*—Then let us go down to Haren, where grandfather Laben used to live.

*Jacob.*—They have no bread there, now; for two years it has not rained anywhere on ear'h, that we know of. Only in Egypt is there corn, which was laid up in store from the abundance of past years.

*Jud.*—Then, father, why may not go and bring corn from thence, that we and our little ones perish not?

*Jacob.*—The way is long, and many robbers prowl around for plunder.

*Reu.*—But here we die—we can but die.

*Jacob.*—Then prepare sacks and take with you money; saddle your asses and depart, and may the God of my fathers preserve you and prosper your journey.

*Ben.*—Shall I go too, my father?

*Jacob.*—Nay, my son, thou shalt remain with me, for thou art the only son left of my dear wife Rachel, who died when thou wert born. Thy brother Joseph went out from me and returned not.

*Exit brothers.*

EGYPT—JOSEPH *seated at his desk; enter the ten brothers, bowing very low. JOSEPH recognizes them, but is unknown; speaks through an interpreter, roughly.*

*Jo.*—From whence come ye?

*Reu.*—From the land of Canaan, to buy bread.

*Jo.*—Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land are ye come.

*Jud.*—Nay, but to buy food are we come.

*Sim.*—We be true men, brethren, the sons of one man, and not spies.

*Jo.*—Nay, but to see the nakedness of the land are ye come.

*Reu.*—Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man, and behold the youngest this day is with his father in Hebron, and one is not.

*Jo.*—That it is I spake: ye are all spies. Send one of you and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved.

*Jo., to guard.*—Put these fellows in prison till I send for them.

*Exit guard and prisoners one way, and JOSEPH another. Re-enter, JOSEPH first, then guard with prisoners.*

*Jo.*—This do and live: let one of you be bound in the house of your prison; let the others go carry bread for your families; but bring your younger brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die.

*Sim., to his brothers.*—We be very guilty in that we done to our brother Joseph, when we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us and we would not hearken.

*Reu.*—Spake I not unto ye, saying, do nothing against the child, and ye would not hear? So now you feel your guilt.

*JOSEPH retires weeping, but trying to suppress; shortly returning.*

*Jo.*—Go, and return again with your brother, of whom ye spake, and this man will I keep till ye return; then shall ye go and come and traffic in the land.

HEBRON—JACOB and BENJAMIN sitting; the brethren arrive.

*Reu.*—Our father, all hail.

*Jacob.*—My sons, hath the hand of the Lord been with you, and have ye prospered in your journey?

*Reu.*—We have been in good health, and have returned with bread for our households.

*Iss.*—But we did not fare so well in Egypt.

*Jacob.*—What befell you there?

*Dan.*—The lord of the land took us for spies and shut us up in prison for three days, and hath also kept Simeon until we return.

*Gad.*—Behold, my father, the money that we had paid

for the corn, we found hid in our sacks when we had opened them.

*Jacob.*—The Lord be merciful to us; the ruler took you for spies, and then put the money into the sacks; surely he seeketh a quarrel with us, and will send armed men to destroy us, or will demand a large price for the redemption of your brother. It is most surely evil.

*Exit*—JACOB *one way and the brothers another; re-enter.*

*Zeb.*—Our father, the corn we brought up out of Egypt is all eaten; there remaineth not enough to keep alive our wives and our little ones till we can go to Egypt and buy more, except we return soon.

*Nep.*—But we must take Benjamin with us, or the ruler of Egypt will slay us.

*Jacob.*—Me ye have bereaved; Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will now take Benjamin also. All these things are against me. My son shall not go down with you into Egypt.

*Reu.*—Slay my two sons if I bring him not back to thee again.

*Jud.*—If thou wilt send him we will go down; if not, we will not go.

*Jacob.*—Wherefore did ye tell the man whether ye had yet a brother?

*Lev.*—The man straightly asked us our estate; could we certainly know that he would say, bring your brother!

*Jud.*—Send the lad with us, I will be surety; of my hand shalt thou require him—for except we had lingered we had returned by this the second time.

*Jacob.*—If ye must go, take of the best fruits of the land in your vessels, a iittle myrrh, nuts, and almonds, and take double money; take also your brother and arise and go. If I be bereaved, I am bereaved.

*Exit*—JACOB *kissing* BENJAMIN.

EGYPT—JOSEPH'S *office; enter the ten brothers, bowing very low.*

*Joseph, to servants, interpreted.*—Go make preparation for these men to dine at my house to-day.

*Reu., to brothers.*—He hath brought us into his house to take advantage of us, because of the money that was found in our sacks. He will make bondmen of us.

*Lev.*—Let us speak to his steward.

*Jud.*—Sir, we came down the first time to buy bread, and when we came to open our sacks, behold every man's money in full weight was in our sacks' mouth, and we have brought it again.

*Iss.*—And the money we have brought to buy foed with --we cannot tell who put the money in our sacks.

*Steward.*—Peace; fear not, I have your money; and here also is your brother that has been with me since your return.

*Asa.*—We are to eat bread to-day with the prince of the land; prepare ye every man his present.

*Enter JOSEPH and servant.*

*Reu.*—Gracious prince, we present thee a little out of our extreme poverty.

*Jo*—The fruits of your land are delightful. Is your father yet alive—the old man of whom ye spake? Is he well?

*Jud.*—Our father is in health.

*Jo.*—Is tuis your younger brother of whom ye spake unto me? God be gracious unto thee, my son.

[*JOSEPH retires in haste to his chamber*—tables set and brothers seated according to age, *Reu.*, *Sim.*, *Le.*, *Ju.*, *Dan.*, *Nep.*, *Gad.*, *As.*, *Iss.*, *Zeb.*, *Ben*—they are surprised and wonder at the order --messes sent *Ben.* five times as great as the others.]

*Jo.*, to *steward.*—Fill these men's sacks with faod, and put each man's money in his sack; and put also my silver cup into Benjamin's sack, and in the morning send them away.

*They rise and take their departure*—servants overtake them.

*Servant.*—Wherefore have ye rendered evil for good?

*Reu.*—Wherefore saith my lord these words to the reproach of thy servants?

*Ser.*—Ye have stolen the cup in which my lord drinketh, and by which he divineth.

*Jud.*—Did we not return the money that we found in our sacks? How then shall we steal out of thy master's house silver or gold? With whomsoever it be found, let him die.

*Ser.*—Let it be according to thy word.

*Theg search, beginning with the eldest*—the cup is found with *BENJAMIN*—they return greatly cast down.

*Joseph, by interpreter.*—What deed is this ye have done? Wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?

*Jud.*—What shall we say, or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out our iniquity! We be thy servants, both we and he with whom the cup was found.

*Jo.*—He with whom the cup was found shall be my servant; get ye up to your father.

*Jud., coming nigh to Jo.*—Let thy servant speak a word into the ear of my lord, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant, for thou art even as Pharaoh. My lord asked us, have ye a father or a brother? And we said unto my lord, we have. And our brother is a little lad, the only son of his mother, and his father loveth him. And thou saidst, bring him, that I may set my eyes upon him. And we said, if he should leave his father, the old man would die. And we told our father according to these words. And our father said, ye know that my wife bare me two sons, and the one went out from me, and I said he hath been torn by wild beasts. And if ye take this also from me, ye shall bring my gray hairs down with sorrow to the grave. And thy servant became surety to our father for the lad. Now, therefore, let thy servant remain a bondman to my lord, and let the lad go up to his father, lest we see the evil that shall befall him.

*JOSEPH sends out his servants and speaks in their own language.*

*Jo.*—I am Jeseeph. Doth my father yet live?

*They are dismayed and draw back.*

*Jo.*—Come near to me, I pray you; I am Joseph, *your brother*, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now, therefore, be not grieved nor angry with yourselves that ye sold me, for God did send me before you to preserve life—to preserve you a posterity on the earth; for there shall be yet five years more of famine. Haste ye, go to my father and this say: Thy son Joseph hath God made lord of all Egypt. Come, therefore, down unto me, and thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me. And there will I nourish thee, for yet there are five years of famine. And behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth speaketh unto you.

*JOSEPH falls on BENJAMIN'S neck and they weep together.*

*Exit brothers.*

PHARAOH *in chair of state*—JOSEPH *enters with five of his brothers.*

Jo.—Most august sovereign, these are brothers, the sons of my father.

Brothers, *bowing low*.—Oh, King, live forever.

Pha.—What is your occupation, sirs?

Reu.—Thy servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers.

Pha.—What is your petition?

Reu.—For to sojourn in the land are we come; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks, for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan; now, therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants dwell in the land of Goshen.

Pha., *to Jo.*—Thy father and thy brethren are come unto thee. The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren dwell. In the land of Goshen let them dwell.

*Exit brothers—Enter JACOB, leaning on JOSEPH'S arm.*

Jo.—Behold my father.

Jacob.—The blessing of the God of Abraham and Isaac, my fathers, be upon the head of the king, in that he hath shown favor unto Joseph, the son of my old age.

Pha.—How old art thou?

Jacob.—The days of the years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty. Few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage. And may blessings abide upon the head of Pharaoh forever. Amen, and amen.









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